FBI Informant's Case

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—An Alabama appellate court has been asked to halt the state's prosecution of former FBI informant Gary Thomas Rowe Jr. on charges of murdering civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo in 1965.

Motions filed with the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals contend that Rowe was granted immunity from prosecution by the state for his testimony against three Ku Klux Klansmen charged with the slaying of Liuzzo.

Rowe, who now lives in Savannah, Ga., under a new identity established by the FBI, has been fighting extradition to face charges that he, not the Klansmen, killed Liuzzo.

He was indicted by a Lowndes County grand jury on Sept. 20, 1978, more than 13 years after Liuzzo was shot to death on a lonely stretch of U.S. 80 connecting Montgomery and Selma. The shooting occurred as the Detroit housewife shuttled civil rights workers to Selma after the historic voting rights march to Montgomery led by the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

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